

## **A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS**

**SUMMARY:** Students will record their observations of seasonal changes in the park and discuss why Lassen Volcanic National Park is important.

**GOAL:** To develop student awareness and understanding of the importance of a national park as a place for all seasons.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will 1. Be able to name at least two reasons why Lassen Volcanic National Park is important in all seasons. 2. Be able to share at least two observations of changes in seasons they have noticed.

**GRADE LEVEL:** Third through Twelve.

**TIME REQUIRED:** 45-60 minutes in the park and 45 minutes in the classroom.

**LOCATION:** Any site or trail in Lassen Volcanic National Park

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** The student will need a copy of the Student Activity Page, pencil or pen, something hard to write on, and lined paper.

**SUBJECTS COVERED:** Science, Language Arts

**KEY WORDS:** National Park, environment, habitat

**RELATED CONCEPTS:** •Natural environments change with the seasons.

**BACKGROUND:** Lassen like all National Parks has many important values. It is not just a seasonal recreation area. It has sustainable values year round, for all seasons. Each season has its influence on the park's biological and physical characteristics. All are interrelated and important affecting not only what is in the park, but many things outside the park as well. For example, Lassen is an important watershed. The amount of snow that falls in the park affects many downstream water users. Lassen is a seasonal home for many wildlife species such as deer and song birds. It is where they raise their young. Consequently, Lassen provides critical habitat for maintaining some of Earth's rich biological diversity. Lassen Volcanic National Park is also an outdoor classroom, a historical and cultural site, and one of America's enduring treasures. The park is an important place in all seasons.

**INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE:** As with all field trips student enthusiasm will be greatly enhanced by prior learning. Provide the students with an introduction to the park. Use park maps, books, and/or video's to share and discuss information about the park. Ask the students why they think national parks such as Lassen are important. Make a class list from their answers.

This activity is divided into two parts. The first part is the field trip portion. The student activity page is used on the field trip. The second part is the classroom post field trip follow up. The questions at the end of the assessment are to be done back in class.

Prior to the actual visit trip to the park explain to the students that during their visit they are going to be scientists studying this particular season. They will be answering questions provided for them on a student activity sheet. Explain to the students that they will be working in pairs or individually (Teachers Choice). At the park they are to walk on a park trail or sit in a designated area to observe and answer the questions on their study sheets. Be sure groups/individuals can spread out so they have space/quiet for completing their task. Decide on space boundaries and time limits so it will be clear that everyone knows the parameters.

**ENRICHMENT/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:** (1) Have the students draw a picture based on their park visit. Make sure that they include as many details as they can. (2) Have the students write a seasonal poem that captures the uniqueness of this place during this season.

**ASSESSMENT:** Have the students answer the Student Questions back in class. Discuss their answers. Have the students develop additional questions about the park based on what they observed and recorded on the field trip. Use all of their student work from this activity for assessment. An additional assessment would be to have students make presentations on their experiences to other classes and/or community groups. For these presentations they may need to make visuals about their experiences in the park.

### Classroom Activity

#### Student Questions

1. Why are the forests in the park important all year?
2. Can the things you observed on the field trip be seen everyday of the year? Why?
3. Why is this season important to the park?
4. What other time of year would you like to visit the park? Why?
5. Lassen Volcanic National Park is an outdoor classroom. From your field observations put a circle around those subjects which you could study here during any season. Science, Art, Math, History, PE, Reading, and/or Writing
6. How might the changes in the seasons at Lassen affect you at home?
7. Explain what makes Lassen Volcanic National Park a special place for all seasons?
8. If people can't visit Lassen Park should it still be preserved? Why?
9. The following words describe different park values. Using your student activity page write one or more of these words next to each of the numbers. Ecology, Geology, History, Art, Fresh Air, People, Watershed, Classroom, Peaceful.

### A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS Student Activity Page

You are a park scientist who is trained to notice details and make accurate observations. On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions and do the activities described below. You may wish to take notes on your observations to help in answering some of the questions.

1. Name of trail \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Season \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe what the weather is like today in as much detail as possible.
3. Write down all the different colors you see on your walk. What colors are found only during this season?
4. Are there any insects out? Are they in the water, in the air, or on the ground? If your answer is no, why aren't there any insects out?
5. Do you see any birds or mammals? Keep track of how many different kinds you see of each during your walk. Do you think they stay here all year or live here only during certain seasons?
6. Is there snow on the mountains? Where does the melted snow go?
7. Can you see any changes in the forest that might of happened today? This season? This Year?
8. Find a place to sit down and be quiet for 5 minutes. Record all the sounds that you hear.

9. Describe the most beautiful thing you've seen today.
10. Describe the most amazing or unique thing you've seen today.